

City of Mountain View Zero Waste Plan – Notes from Community Meeting, April 21st, 2011

Approximately 20 people attended the Community Meeting in addition to 5 staff and consultants.

A presentation was made that addressed the following topics:

- Background
- What is Zero Waste?
- Draft Zero Waste vision and goals.
- Milestones for developing the Plan.
- Zero Waste in Mountain View.
- Questions and input – your turn.
- Further opportunities for input.

The PowerPoint presentation slides and other background information can be found on the City's Zero Waste website at:

http://www.mountainview.gov/city_hall/public_works/garbage_and_recycling/zero_waste.asp

The following questions and comments were received during the “questions and input” agenda item for the Community Meeting. The input will be used in developing the Zero Waste Plan.

QUESTIONS: (all questions were answered during the meeting)

1. What are the results of the business food waste pilot? Participation? Effectiveness?
A: Approximately 10-15 businesses are participating, with about 30-35 tons collected per week.
2. Will there be requirements for space for recycling and composting carts as part of implementing the Green Building Ordinance?
A: State Law requires space for recycling. All new development plans are reviewed by Solid Waste Program staff for appropriate recycling space, but composting cart space is not currently required.
3. Are there still significant compostables in the residue from the SMaRT Station™?
A: Yes, the Waste Characterization Study indicates that a significant portion of the residue after trash has been sorted for recyclables is compostable paper, and a smaller percentage is food waste.
4. Are the 2015 and 2020 interim goals realistic?
A: These are draft goals and will be evaluated in light of diversion options and costs as the plan is further developed.
5. Is there an option for customers to share curbside trash containers?

- A: This is an interesting idea that is difficult at this time due to code and billing issues, but could be evaluated in the future.
6. Should liner bags be used for trash?
- A: It is best to keep using liners to contain trash in carts at this time.
7. What can I do to improve my home worm composting? There are more worms than food.
- A: Several ideas of what to do with excess worms were offered by attendees.
8. What amount of construction and demolition debris is reusable?
- A: The Waste Characterization Study was not able to determine this accurately, as material that may be reusable while at the job site is not reusable after making the trip to the SMaRT Station in a dump truck or debris box.
9. What percentage of businesses practice source reduction? Programs are about more than recycling.
- A: Source Reduction is a topic staff discusses and assists businesses with as part of our outreach practice.
10. What is the percentage of compostables in the residential trash stream compared to the commercial trash stream?
- A: The Waste Characterization study indicates the percentage of compostable and potentially compostable material in the residential waste stream is 45%, and in the commercial stream is 42%.
11. Can more results from the Waste Characterization Study be provided for input?
- A: The Waste Characterization Study can be found on the City's website at
http://www.mountainview.gov/city_hall/public_works/garbage_and_recycling/zero_waste.asp
12. What portion of the diversion from the SMaRT Station™ are fines?
- A: Organic fines make up 28% of material diverted from the trash stream. (Note: at the meeting the question was answered as 7-8%. However, 7-8% is the amount fines represent as a percent of ALL materials processed at the SMaRT Station, including curbside recyclables.)
13. What portion of the 57% “compostables/potentially compostables” residuals from the SMaRT Station™ are yard trimmings?
- A: Very little (less than 2%).
14. Is there potential for Styrofoam block collection for recycling?
- A: Not at this time. Styrofoam is difficult to handle and recycle cost effectively (it's mostly air, expensive to transport, difficult to keep clean, has few buyers and end uses).
15. What is being done for Extended Producer Responsibility?

A: State legislation is the primary driver of EPR (paint and carpet bills recently passed and battery bill being considered). The City Council has adopted a resolution in support of EPR efforts.

16. What can be done in situations where there is limited space for carts, but the recycling and yard trimmings carts are overflowing with only every other week collection?

A: Weekly recycling service will be evaluated as part of the plan. Excess recyclables placed in the trash will be captured to the extent possible at the SMaRT Station.

COMMENTS:

1. Thank you to the City Council for the Green Building Ordinance.
2. Get support from cities to open a used building supply “ReStore”.
3. Provide yard trimmings collection service for condominiums.
4. Provide compost bins.
5. Ban use of plastic bags.
6. Ban Styrofoam.
7. Provide/support appliance repair services.
8. Aim to recover more organics than fines at the SMaRT StationTM.
9. Promote/provide more details about the On-Call Cleanups: times/year, residential only.
10. Appreciate that garbage is sorted for recoverables, but hope that there is more potential for organics recovery.
11. Support Mountain View joining Palo Alto in an effort to develop anaerobic digestion for generating renewable energy and revenues.
12. A list of FAQ's has been compiled and will email to City for use in public outreach/education, i.e. what type of liner bags to use, etc.